

INDIAN OFFICE.

FILES.

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By order of

E. B. MERITT,

Asst. Commissioner.

6-4845

35380-

1915

CARLISLE

File No.

810

E. Sch.

R H H

MAR 23 1915



Mr. Wilson L. Gill,
American Patriotic League,
Independence Hall,
Philadelphia, Pa.

FILED BY C. P. F.

My dear Mr. Gill:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter
of March 3, 1915.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Odo Sells

Commissioner.

3-PHE-22

7th

INITIALING COPY - FOR FILE.

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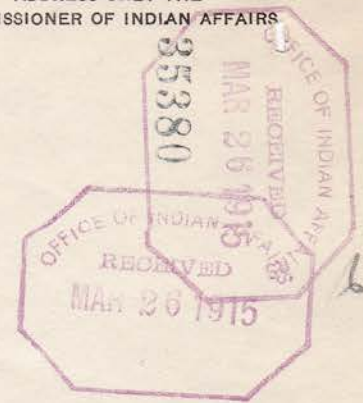
REFER IN REPLY TO THE FOLLOWING:

ADDRESS ONLY THE
COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON



The Honorable

The Secretary of the Interior.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

FILED BY C. P. F.

In order that you may be fully advised as to the matter of Mr. Wilson L. Gill's application to introduce his system of Civic and Moral instruction, I am enclosing copies of my letter to him of March 3, 1915, and also my letter of March 13, 1915, to the Superintendent of the Rapid City School.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

*Mr. Francis:
Not now necessary
to advise the Secy's Office
about this matter
OK*

REFER IN REPLY TO THE FOLLOWING:

Edu-Schools
136381-14
G A C

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON

MAR -3, 1915.

Mr. Wilson L. Gill,
501 W. Mt. Pleasant Ave.,
Mt. Airy, Pa.

FILED BY G. P. F.

My dear Mr. Gill:

Answering your letter of December 5, 1914, and also one of December 24, addressed to me and transmitted by Senator Owen, and also your letter of February 12, you are advised that I have decided to allow you to give a thorough test of your plan of giving civic and moral training to Indian pupils at one of our schools, and for this purpose I have selected the Rapid City Indian School, Rapid City, South Dakota.

I am taking steps looking to your appointment for the remainder of the present school year as Supervisor of Indian Schools, at a salary of \$1500 per year, and if effected I will instruct Superintendent House to give you every facility for demonstrating the efficacy of this method. Of course, you understand that Superintendent House is under bond and must be held accountable for the care of the property, disbursement of funds, and the general management of the school. If in his judgment it



appears necessary, he should withhold assent to any procedure you may favor which he considers seriously injurious, but aside from these considerations I shall direct that he make every concession not inconsistent with the general principles herein stated. If there should be conflict of opinion on matters of great importance, separate reports and recommendations should be submitted to the office.

While the remaining portion of the year is so short, by devoting your entire attention to the school for the next four months, it is felt that a fair opportunity will be given you to demonstrate what can be accomplished under your system.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) CATO SELLS

3-ESH-1.

Commissioner.

3-H12-38-12.

REFER IN REPLY TO THE FOLLOWING:

E. Sch.
136381-14
G A C

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON

MAR 13, 1915.

Mr. Jesse F. House,
Supt. Rapid City School.

My dear Mr. House:

As you know, a few years ago Mr. Wilson L. Gill was appointed a supervisor in the Indian Service for the purpose of introducing his system of giving civic and moral training to Indian pupils, and visited the Rapid City school among others. However, he was not successful in his work and it has been asserted by those who believe his system has great merit that this was largely because he did not have the official backing of Superintendents and particularly because he did not have sufficient time at any one school in which to give his plan a thorough trial.

In order to determine definitely whether or not Mr. Gill's system should be further extended, I wish to give him an opportunity to fully demonstrate the working of his system, and have selected the Rapid City school as the one where the trial is to be made. I have chosen your school partly because it is a typical Indian school, but still more because I have confidence in your good judgment in meeting the conditions which will necessarily accompany

a decided change, and my belief that while you will give Mr. Gill every opportunity to make his trial a success, you will at the same time be able to keep a hold on the affairs of the school which will be a safeguard against possible evil results from too radical or unadvised changes.

I am enclosing you a copy of my letter to Mr. Gill, from which you will see that where his plans contemplate a material change in the school organization, if they are essential to his success, I desire concession to them. However, as stated in my letter, I shall expect you to withhold assent should any changes be undertaken which you consider seriously injurious, and, as suggested in my letter to Mr. Gill, submit such matters to the Office for decision.

Mr. Gill will remain at your school until the end of the school year and during that time will have ample opportunity clearly to demonstrate the usefulness of his plan.

Very truly yours,

.SS-31-86H-3

(Sgd.) CATO SELLS

3-FMK-12.

Commissioner.

X. Sch.

B H B



The Honorable

The Secretary of the Interior.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

In order that you may be fully advised as to the matter of Mr. Wilson L. Gill's application to introduce his system of Civic and Moral instruction, I am enclosing copies of my letter to him of March 3, 1915, and also my letter of March 13, 1915, to the Superintendent of the Rapid City School.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

3-FMK-22

INITIALING COPY - FOR FILE.

E. Sch.

R H H



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The Secretary of the Interior.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

In order that you may be fully advised as to the matter of Mr. Wilson L. Gill's application to introduce his system of Civic and Moral instruction, I am enclosing copies of my letter to him of March 3, 1915, and also my letter of March 13, 1915, to the Superintendent of the Rapid City School.

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Commissioner.

3-FMK-22

3
E. Sch.

R H H



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The Secretary of the Interior.

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Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

3-FEE-22

American Patriotic League

INCORPORATED UNDER LAW OF CONGRESS, 1891

TO PROMOTE MORAL AND CIVIC TRAINING IN ALL SCHOOLS

Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Pa., U. S. A.

Wilson L. Gill, President, 501 West Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Mt. Airy, Pa. Lyman Beecher Stowe, Secretary H. M. Hill, Financial Secretary
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Hon. Cato Sells,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington, D. C.

March 13, 1915.

Dear Mr. Sells:--

I am sorry that you have not found it practicable to accept my offer to demonstrate to you at Carlisle, easily accessible from Washington, the value of my reform method of handling Indian children in the Government schools; and that it is quite as impracticable for me to accept your offer to have me go to a school where it would be impossible for you to make any personal observations, and where the conditions are not suitable for such a test. The method can be used at Rapid City as well as any other place, but that fact does not constitute it a suitable place for such a test.

The Government can well afford to pay the cost of this demonstration, whereas, your offer is that the Government shall pay only about half of the expense, and that I should pay the rest (about \$500) which, under the circumstances is not practicable.

The present method of controlling the conduct of children and young men and women at the Indian schools, is antiquated, ignorant, negligent, inefficient and damaging to the character of every individual who comes under it. I have offered to you, under conditions which are practicable for me, to make a demonstration of a method, which is up-to-date, is intelligent, economical, efficient and is helpful to every individual to construct for himself good, independent character, the value of which has been thoroughly tested by two branches of the Government, both of which furnish abundant testimony concerning its value, and this testimony I have furnished you. Besides this, though a thorough test of the method has not been made in the Indian schools, you have enough evidence in your files to make it perfectly evident that the method is right and feasible for adaptation and use in every Indian school.

Mr. Abbott, Mr. Friedman and others say that you can use my method without the necessity of paying for my services. Of course this seems like an economical procedure, but the fact is, as honest and practicable as this thought may be, you have not one man in the service, who is prepared by his experience or his interest to work out the problem for the Indian schools, and moreover, all these men have had ample opportunity

nity to do this thing which they suggest, and they have not done it, which tends to indicate that you will scarcely get any such reform by such a process.

When the Department of the Interior will recognize that it has some responsibility in this matter, and that it is of sufficient importance to treat it in a serious and generous business spirit, I will be glad to do my part, as well as the circumstances of the case at the time will justify. As the matter now stands, I have spent some hundreds of dollars in an endeavor to get this subject to your attention, but as you seem to be quite satisfied with existing conditions and methods, and with the adverse judgment of those who are accustomed to the old methods, it seems hardly worth my while to spend any more time and effort in this direction at present.

As I have endeavored to get the cooperation of the Secretary of the Interior in this general cause, of which the Indian part is but a small item, I will send him a carbon copy of this letter, and for both your and his information, I will state that the movement is developing very well in the public schools in various parts of the country.

I am aware that you are burdened with a great load of details, and I heartily sympathize with you, but I am hoping that you will come to see that this is not a mere detail, but one of policy more important than any other matter with which you have to deal, which has to do with Indian affairs,

With kindest wishes for you, I am

Very truly yours,

Wilson L. Gilf